REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated November 25, 2008. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-5, 7-11 and 14-15 are pending. Claims 12-13 are canceled herein, without prejudice. The Applicants respectfully reserve the right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein, either at a later time during the prosecution of this application or any continuing applications.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 5,649,108 to Spiegel ("Spiegal") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,191,650 to Kramer ("Kramer"). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-11 and 14-15 are patentable over Spiegal in view of Kramer for at least the following reasons.

It is undisputed that "Spiegel et al do not teach 'wherein no information for deriving the return path is stored in the packet when the packet visits the intermediate node'." (See, Office Action, page 3.) Kramer is cited for showing this element of the

claims, however, it is respectfully submitted that reliance for showing that which is recited in the claims is misplaced.

Kramer is clear that (emphasis added) "[w]hen a LOCATE request message is sent through the network, information must be retained at the intermediate nodes in the search path for routing the search reply ... The 'keep' status indicator causes each node along the path to retain information in control blocks pointing to the node from which it received the LOCATE message and the node to which it forwarded the message. The information retained in the control blocks insures that the LOCATE reply can be routed back to the origin." (See, Kramer, Col. 4, line 58 - Col. 5, line 5 as cited in the Office Action.)

It is respectfully submitted that the method of claim 1 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Spiegal in view of Kramer. For example, Spiegal in view of Kramer does not disclose or suggest, a method that amongst other patentable elements, comprises (illustrative emphasis added) "when the packet visits the intermediate node, storing information in the intermediate node for deriving a return path for the packet to the source node, wherein no information for deriving the return path is stored in the packet

when the packet visits the intermediate node; and when the packet is being returned to the source node, using the stored information for deriving the return path, wherein, the information stored in the intermediate node comprises an identifier of the packet and only one of an input port through which the packet was received by the intermediate node and an output port through which the packet is returned to the source node by the intermediate node to be used for returning the packet" as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in claim 4. In contrast, Kramer teaches storing both of the node from which the message is received and the node to which the message is forwarded.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the method of claim 11 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Spiegal in view of Kramer. For example, Spiegal in view of Kramer does not disclose or suggest, a method that amongst other patentable elements, comprises (illustrative emphasis added) "when the packet visits an intermediate node in the network path, storing a slot table in the intermediate node for deriving a return path for the packet from the intermediate node to the source node, wherein the slot table indicates which output port of the

intermediate node is connected to which unique input port of the intermediate node in a given time slot, wherein no information for deriving the return path is stored in the packet when the packet visits the intermediate node other than a time slot indicator indicating a time slot in which the packet is received by the intermediate node; and using the stored slot table in the intermediate node for deriving the return path for the packet from the intermediate node to the source node" as recited in claim 11.

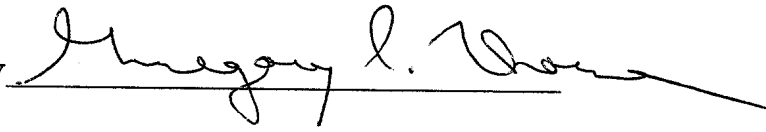
Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 4 and 11 are patentable and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2, 5, 7-10 and 14-15 respectively depend from one of claims 1, 4, and 11 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of

argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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